

Amendment/Response

Reply to Office Action of September 12, 2008

REMARKS/DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

Claims 1-10, 13-14, and 18-20 are pending in this application, with claims 1, 13, and 18 being amended, while claims 11-12 and 15-17 are cancelled.

It is believed that the amendment to claim 18 does not involve new subject matter but rather clarifies what the term "selectively engageable" would mean to one skilled in the art.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

(a) Claims 15-18 are rejected under U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Leiferman et al. The rejection of the claims, as amended, is respectfully traversed.

Claims 15-17 are cancelled. Claim 18 is amended to recite that the brush includes a plurality of bristles. Bristles are not mentioned or suggested by Leiferman et al. Therefore, the rejection for anticipation is overcome.

New claims 19 and 20, being dependent upon and further defining independent claim 18, should be allowable for that reason, as well as for the additional recitations they contain. Therefore, reconsideration of the rejection of claim 18 under U.S.C. § 102 is respectfully requested.

(b) Claims 1-2, 6-8, and 11 are rejected under U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Rix et al. The rejection of the claims, as amended, is respectfully traversed.

It is respectfully suggested that the Examiner is in error in equating the felt found in Rix et al. to the bristles required by claim 1. The interpretation of claim language is not unrestricted, but is limited to the broadest reasonable interpretation that is consistent both with the specification and with the interpretation that those skilled in the art would reach. MPEP Section 2111.

Applicant respectfully suggests that one skilled in the art would not equate felt to bristles on a brush. As evidence of this respectful suggestion, Applicant includes at the end of this response the two pages printed out from a Google search on the Internet for the definitions of "bristle." It is clear from the results that one skilled in the art and reading the specification would not consider the bristles of the claims to be felt. Note also that the specification refers to

Amendment/Response

Reply to Office Action of September 12, 2008

cleaning surfaces 42 on page 3, paragraph 14, as including "a plurality of bristles, cloth, material containing cleaning agent, foam, a pad or sponge brush, or any combination thereof." The fact that Applicant has limited the recitation in claim 1 to "a plurality of bristles" signifies that the other possible cleaning surfaces mentioned in the specification are specifically excluded from the claim coverage, which includes felt as being a type of cloth.

It is respectfully suggested that the rejection of claim 1 for anticipation is overcome.

Claim 11 is cancelled, thus rendering its rejection moot.

Claims 2, and 6-8, being dependent upon and further defining independent claim 1, should be allowable for that reason, as well as for the additional recitations they contain. Therefore, reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1, 2, and 6-8 under U.S.C. § 102 is respectfully requested.

(c) Claims 1, 3, 6-9, and 13 are rejected under U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Kozub. The rejection of the claims, as amended, is respectfully traversed.

Applicant respectfully suggests that the amendment to claim 1, with the recitation of "a resilient clamping mechanism which attaches said brush assembly to a faucet by stretching and then contracting onto said faucet", adds to claim 1 a limitation which is neither taught or suggested by Kozub. As clearly shown in Kozub, the brush assembly attaches to a golf cart wheel via an adapter 60. This attachment mechanism is not resilient, nor a clamp, certainly does not and cannot attach to a faucet, and doesn't attach by stretching and then contracting onto the faucet.

It is respectfully suggested that the rejection of claim 1 for anticipation is overcome.

Claims 3, 6-9, and 13, being dependent upon and further defining independent claim 1, should be allowable for that reason, as well as for the additional recitations they contain. Therefore, reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1, 3, 6-9, and 13 under U.S.C. § 102 is respectfully requested.

Amendment/Response

Reply to Office Action of September 12, 2008

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

(a) Claims 4, 5, 10, and 14 are rejected under U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kozub. The rejection of the claims is respectfully traversed.

Claims 4, 5, 10, and 14, being dependent upon and further defining independent claim 1, should be allowable for that reason, as well as for the additional recitations they contain. Therefore, reconsideration of the rejection of claims 4, 5, 10, and 14 under U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

(b) Claims 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, and 12 are rejected under U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rix et al. The rejection of the claims is respectfully traversed.

Claim 12 is cancelled, thus rendering its rejection moot.

Claims 3, 4, 5, 9, and 10, being dependent upon and further defining independent claim 1, should be allowable for that reason, as well as for the additional recitations they contain. Therefore, reconsideration of the rejection of claims 3, 4, 5, 9, and 10 under U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

If any points are in issue that may be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated or by e-mail directed to Chris@PatentingServices.com.

Respectfully submitted,

/CRPastel/

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Definitions of **bristle** on the Web:

- abound: be in a state of movement or action; "The room abounded with screaming children"; "The garden bristled with toddlers"
- rise up as in fear; "The dog's fur bristled"; "It was a sight to make one's hair uprise!"
- have or be thickly covered with or as if with bristles; "bristling leaves"
- a stiff fiber (coarse hair or filament); natural or synthetic
- react in an offended or angry manner; "He bristled at her suggestion that he should teach her how to use the program"
- a stiff hair
wordnet.princeton.edu/perl/webwn
- A bristle is a stiff hair or feather. Also used are synthetic materials such as nylon or straw in items such as brooms and sweepers. Bristles are often used to make brushes for cleaning uses, as they are strongly abrasive; common examples include the toothbrush and toilet brush. ...
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bristle
- A stiff or coarse hair; The hair or straws that make up a brush, broom, or similar item; A humorous misspelling of Bristol, in imitation of the ...
en.wiktionary.org/wiki/bristle
- the "hairs" on a brush, either natural (hair) or artificial (nylon or polyester).
www.servicemagic.com/article.show.Painting-and-Staining-Glossary.13455.html
- a stiff hair which is more than one cell broad at the base.
www.anbg.gov.au/glossary/webpubl/fernglos.htm
- A hair-like structure; in members of the sunflower family (Asteraceae), it refers to one type of pappus, while in certain members of the sedge family (Cyperaceae) it refers to reduced perianth parts.
oregonstate.edu/ornhic/plants/glossary.html
- A stiff, slender hair or appendage likened to a hog's bristle; in Setaria , Pennisetum and a few other grasses, it is a highly reduced branch without a spikelet at the apex.
www.csd1.tamu.edu/FLORA/taes/tracy/610/glossB.html
- Bristles are fibers that fringe baleen plates. BUBBLE-NET FEEDING Humpback whales cooperate in hunting and have developed a method of rounding up ...
www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/whales/glossary/indexb.shtml
- bristles - In insects, sclerotized, stout, hairlike projections from the adult cuticle, classified as two main types, larger macrochaetae and smaller ...
www.developmentalbiology.net/server_pages/lab_book/glossary/B.html
- bristles - (noun) - something made of or resembling a hair (as on a toothbrush) - (verb) - becomes stiff or tense with anger
webtech.kennesaw.edu/reading/chocolatetouchvoc.htm
- bristles - Tiny rigid structures on most segments of earthworms which serve as brakes during movement. Known as setae, the patterns they form are a major ...
www.thelearningworm.com/glossary.php

- bristles - are spiked, ball-shaped creatures made completely of stone. Bristles are first encountered in Shhwonk Fortress, where Mario must defeat two of them to pass through this fortress. A team of Bristles, called The Poker Faces appear as competitors in the Glitz Pit arena.
www.nationmaster.com/encyclopedia/Mario-enemies

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